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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COLOMBIA, MAJOR LEMLY, AND MR. THAYER

SIR,—Mr. Thayer's reply to my letter *in re* "Colombia and 'Black-mail,'" published in your October number, does not answer a single one of my dozen questions. It does worse. It attributes words to me that I never wrote. At least I expected fair treatment from this distinguished author.

I distinctly stated that the adherents of Dr. Caro did not wish President Marroquin to receive the ten million dollars because they feared he might thereby perpetuate himself in power, but themselves desired to have the spending of this large sum—a perfectly legitimate proposition upon the part of a political party and the prospective president provided the expenditure were made wisely and honestly, that is, for the good of the country. Nothing was said or intimated concerning how they "could divide the ten million dollars spoils." Nor is it true that "according to his [my] own statement, the ringsters at Bogota regarded the Treaty as a means to their private spoils." This is a unique and incredible gratuity upon the part of Mr. Thayer. Dr. Miguel Antonio Caro was President of Colombia during six years, but lived and died a poor man. In dignity and education he was the peer of any of the distinguished Americans mentioned by Mr. Thayer. No comparison was suggested between our agents at the Geneva Arbitration and the so-called "ringsters at Bogota"—*the Colombian Senate*—because their functions were entirely dissimilar. It is only Mr. Thayer who compares three commissioners with a legislative body—*treaty-makers* with *treaty-ratifiers*!

Obviously it is impossible to discuss the matter further with an American historian who does not hesitate to misquote you.

How could the Colombians "foreclose in 1904" a concession "which was to run until 1910?" Apparently Mr. Thayer is not aware that the Canal Concession lapsed several times, but was extended. It might properly have been cancelled. There was no question then of twenty-five millions, and wherein "the value of the work the French had already done in digging the Canal" was an asset or "plus" to the Colombians, *once the concession were transferred*, is something that only Mr. Thayer has fathomed.

Mr. Thayer frankly exclaims: "Why should not the United States have helped the Panamanians in their struggle?" Well, because, in return for certain concessions, *the United States had solemnly guaranteed the sovereignty of Colombia upon the Isthmus*. But, if we violated the Treaty of 1846 for any cause, we could not morally or legally deprive Colombia of the one million dollars she was to receive during every four years of the ninety-nine of the Panama Railroad concession nor of her reversionary rights in both railway and canal.

My letter said nothing about the *dates* of "the despatches to and from Mr. Baupre." As to their *contents*, here are three extracts copied *verbatim*:

* * * "everything relative to this matter is included in the convention recently signed between Colombia and the United States, and furthermore, any modification would be violative of the 'Spooner Act' and therefore inadmissible."

"If Colombia should reject the treaty or unduly delay its ratification, the friendly feeling between the two countries would be so seriously compromised that action might be taken by the Congress next winter which every friend of Colombia would regret."

"If Colombia desires to maintain the friendly relations which at present exist between the two countries, * * * the present treaty will have to be ratified exactly in its present form, without amendment whatsoever."

Since this correspondence began, although subsequently withdrawn for ulterior reasons, the Colombian Treaty has been favorably and unanimously reported to the Senate by its Committee on Foreign Relations, consisting of Senators Lodge, McCumber, Borah, Brandegee, Fall, Moses, Knox, Harding, Johnson, New, Hitchcock, Williams, Swanson, Pomerene, Smith, Pittman and Shields.

Are these gentlemen the victims of Mr. Thayer's "industrious and persistent lobby"?

Does this look like *blackmail*?

Washington, D. C.

HENRY ROWAN LEMLY,
(Major, U. S. Army.)

BLACKS AND WHITES

SIR,—Your editorial in the October number of the REVIEW should be printed on a broadside, and scattered over the country as a tract.

The exquisite humor of seeing an American President standing in Europe as the champion of oppressed races, when there are in this country two races as flagrantly abused as any in Europe, should have appealed to every one. The Indians have been as successfully exterminated in this country as even the Armenians were by the Turk. We may not have had recourse to the awful atrocities employed by Turkey, but the Indians were hunted, starved, shot on sight, and rounded up into an ever-dwindling corral, while every treaty made with them was shamelessly broken. This very year of our Lord, 1919, the Seminoles of Florida are being robbed of their land by White landsharks in exactly the same way the Germans acquired land in German Poland.

As to the Negroes, I am perhaps in a peculiarly favorable position for an opinion, as I was born in the South, of a slave-holding ancestry, but have spent some forty years of my life in the North (keeping in touch, however, with my Southern friends and relations), and have lived for the past eight years in Virginia.

When I first went North I had the idea that race antipathy was confined to the South, but the longer I lived North the more I realized that it was quite as strong there, but somewhat more controlled. I had opportunities for observation in various ranks of society, and could not find in any the least evidence of rising superior to the color of a man's skin, no matter what his mental or social qualifications. It may be remembered